

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **A History of the Alameda County Medical Association**

Physicians of Alameda County have several reasons for just pride in the book, "A History of the Alameda County Medical Association."

Pride in the story of the association itself. Only 14 years younger than the A.M.A., it is one of the oldest associations on the Pacific Coast. From a humble beginning it has grown into a most dynamic organization. The story of this growth is covered completely and thoroughly.

Pride in the author, Milton Henry Shutes, who has given freely of his time, from a busy otolaryngologic practice, not only to prepare this present volume but also to have written splendid books and articles on Lincoln and to edit the monthly Bulletin of the Alameda County Medical Association.

Pride in our former colleague, Frank R. Makinson, whose hobby consisted in collecting information concerning the early days of medicine in Alameda County and whose collection laid the groundwork for Dr. Shutes' effort; and lastly, pride in Dr. Makinson's widow, Alice, whose financial generosity made possible the publication of this work.

H. J. T.

**A HISTORY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.** By Milton Henry Shutes, M.D. Published by the Alameda County Medical Association through the generosity of Mrs. Frank H. Makenson, 1947.

This very interesting volume is an amplification and extension of the researches and writings of Frank H. Makenson whose original book appeared in 1931.

It gives the history of the Society with the minutes, constitution and personnel of the successive organizations. There are brief sketches of many of the prominent individuals which are very interesting. Not less interesting is the contemporary medical organization history. The origin and history of the hospitals is a valuable record.

The many references with which the writer of this note is familiar are accurate and historically valuable. The volume will be interesting and valuable to all members of the medical profession who are acquainted with Alameda County and will prove interesting to all laymen for its store of local history.

The example set by Milton Henry Shutes should be followed in behalf of all county medical societies.

**LABORATORY MANUAL OF MICROBIOLOGY FOR NURSES.** By Gill and Culbertson. G. P. Putnam's.

This manual has been carefully designed for use in a laboratory course in bacteriology for nurses. An excellent selection of experiments is included. It may be highly recommended for the specific purpose for which it was prepared. The book is much too elementary for use in the teaching of courses of microbiology for any other groups of students at the university level.

**1947 YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL MEDICINE.** By George F. Dick, M.D., J. Burns Amberson, M.D., George R. Minot, M.D.—(Edinburgh and London), William B. Castle, M.D., William D. Stroud, M.D., and George B. Eusterman, M.D. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago. Price \$3.75.

**1947 YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.** Edited by Oscar W. Bethea, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine. Published by the Year Book Publishers, Inc., 304 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. Price \$3.75.

These two books are valuable to the busy practitioner who has not the time—or often the inclination—to keep up with the all too voluminous literature of the all too many medical journals which are published today. They summarize and attempt to interpret the articles considered most significant by the editors in their respective fields.

The practitioner may find in them information or the clue to information he desires in the diagnosis or treatment of a difficult case. The practitioner or the teacher of medicine may also use them as sources to begin the more complete investigation of a problem in which he is interested.

For the quiz-minded individual the publishers thoughtfully have provided a list of 20 questions on the cover of each book.

If one but subscribes to the Yearbook of General Therapeutics one can toss into the trash basket faster the various throwaways of the pharmaceutical companies which would teach the practicing physician his postgraduate therapeutics to the benefit of the company's products. The therapeutic advances of 1947 are well summarized and evaluated by Dr. Oscar W. Bethea, formerly professor of Clinical Medicine at Tulane.

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**THE HUMAN RACE.** By Emil Froeschels, Philosophical Library, New York. Price \$3.00.

This small volume which presents some of the writer's philosophical concepts may be of interest to the student of philosophy. However, I am sure that the physician seeking instruction in this field can search elsewhere with greater promise of reward.

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**THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.** By Henry A. Christian, A.M., M.D., LL.D., (Hon.) Sc.D., Hon. F.R.C.P. (Can.), F.A.C.P. Originally written by William Osler, M.D., F.R.C.P. Sixteenth Edition. D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., New York.

This is the 16th edition of Osler's Principles and Practice of Medicine now written by Dr. Henry A. Christian. This book, in its more than 50 years of publication, has probably influenced medical thought in the United States more than any other single volume. It will probably continue to be of great influence. The present author has diligently revised the text every few years to keep up with the advances in medicine. At the same time he has attempted to retain as much as possible of the early editions. This blending results in a somewhat incongruous mixture of the old and the new.

On the new side are such innovations as the introductory history of modern medicine (by Dr. J. G. Carr) which uses the various editions of the Osler to show the developments of the period. Functional diseases of the nervous system are brought from their former location as a rear-end appendage of organic diseases of the nervous system and placed at the front of the book for every student to observe. There is a short bibliography at the end of each section in order that the reader may have ready access to original work.